

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00 /016 R

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APPROVED BY S/S-O: J. HOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WITE HOUSE PASS SAM 86970 -

UNCLAS STATE 065527

TOSEC 994

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: REUTER ITEM 0422

QUOTE TEL AVIV, MARCH 23, REUTER-- ISRAEL'S AFTERNOON
NEWSPAPERS SAID TODAY PRESIDENT FORD SENT A SHARP NOTE
TO PRIME YITZHAK RABIN THURSDAY ACCUSING ISRAEL OF
TAKING UP TOO TOUGH A BARGAINING POSITION.

THE NOTE, WHICH SHOCKED AND ANGERED CABINET MINISTERS
AT A CABINET MEETING CALLED FRIDAY TO DISCUSS IT,
WARNED THAT THE U.S. WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER ITS
RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL THE NEWSPAPERS REPORTED.

THE PRESIDENTIAL NOTE WAS SENT TO ISRAEL AFTER
U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER REPORTED FROM
ASWAN ON THE HARD LINE ADOPTED BY EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT
ANWAR SADAT, THE CORRESPONDENTS SAID.

THEY ADDED THAT DR. KISSINGER ADMITTED HE HAD INITIATED
THE PRESIDENT'S NOTE, BUT THE TEXT HAD APPARENTLY BEEN
WRITTEN IN WASHINGTON IN STRONGER TERMS THAN HE
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ANTICIPATED.

THE CORRESPONDENTS SAID THAT THE CABINET MINISTERS HAD
REMAINED UNANIMOUS IN THEIR BELIEF THAT ISRAEL COULD
NOT GIVE WAY IN THE FACE OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S REFUSAL
TO GUARANTEE HIS COUNTRY'S NON-BELLIGERENCY.

REUTER 0422. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, TOSEC 994, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE065527
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: J. HOGANSON:WES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750101-0793
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750324/aaaaaviq.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <09 JAN 2004 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REUTER ITEM 0422 QUOTE TEL AVIV, MARCH 23, REUTER-- ISRAEL'S AFTERNOON
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, US, IS, EG, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (FORD, GERALD R), (RABIN, YITZHAK)
To: WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006